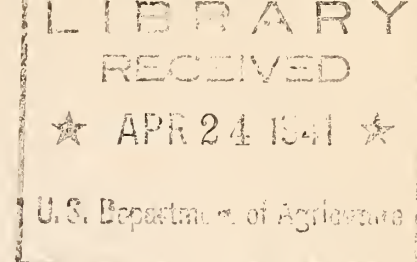


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S. Agricultural Marketing Service
Washington, D. C.



March 10, 1941.

FEDERAL SEED ACT
Requirements for Labeling Lawn Seed and Lawn Seed Mixtures

Lawn seed and lawn seed mixtures transported or delivered for transportation in interstate commerce or imported from a foreign country are agricultural seeds subject to the Federal Seed Act.

The Federal Seed Act does not supersede nor replace State laws which govern the sale of seed within a State. The Federal Seed Act and the State seed laws complement each other, and frequently compliance with both is required.

This memorandum sketches only briefly certain of the requirements of the Federal Seed Act. The Act itself and the Rules and Regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture under the Act carry the full requirements.

Essential requirements are:

- (a) The Act applies to each lot, parcel, container or packet of lawn seed, regardless of size or quantity, which is transported or delivered for transportation in interstate commerce.
- (b) Each person handling lawn seed subject to the Act shall make and retain for 3 years a complete record of each lot of lawn seed handled. The term "complete record" means information relating to each lot of seed handled, including labels, seed samples, records of purchases and sales, cleaning, bulking, handling, storage, analysis, tests, and examinations pertaining to germination and purity. The complete record kept by each person for each lot of seed consists of the information pertaining to his own transactions, and the information received pertaining to each lot of seed handled. The record shall be kept in such manner as to permit comparison with the records kept by other persons for the same lot of seed, so that the germination or purity may be traced from the grower to the ultimate consumer, and so that the lot of seed may be correctly labeled. These records shall be accessible to representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture.

- (c) Each person shall retain a representative sample of each lot of seed for at least 1 year after final disposition of the lot. Such sample shall be accessible for examination by representatives of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.
- (d) Each container or package of seed shall be labeled to show the following:
1. Lot number or other identification.
 2. Name of kind, or kind and variety, with the percentage of pure seed of each present in excess of 5 percent. If it is desired to show percentages of components which are present in quantities less than 5 percent, these may be shown, provided the germination percentage is also shown.
 3. Crop seed _____ %.
 4. Inert matter _____ %.
 5. Weeds _____ %.
 6. Occurrence of noxious-weed seeds according to the law of the State into which the seed is shipped.
 7. Germination _____ %)
Hard Seed _____ %) of each ingredient
in excess of 5 percent
 8. Date of test (month and year):

No more than 5 calendar months shall have elapsed between the last day of the month in which the germination test was completed and the date of transportation or delivery for transportation in interstate commerce.
 9. Name and address of shipper. Code designation may be given in place of shipper's name and address, provided consignee's name and address are given.

This information shall be firmly attached to the container by tag or may be printed on the container. Each label must be plainly visible and clearly legible and shall appear upon the side or top of the container. Concealing the label on the bottom of the container does not fulfill this requirement.

(e) Misleading information shall not be shown on the label. No person shall detach, alter, deface, or destroy any such label or alter or substitute seed in a manner that may defeat the purposes of the Federal Seed Act.

(f) Suggested form of label--

TURF
LAWN SEED MIXTURE

Lot No. X 379

Purity

64.50% Kentucky bluegrass
20.50% Redtop
6.00% White clover
2.00% Crop seed
6.10% Inert matter
.90% Weeds

Germination

80% Jan. 1941
90% Dec. 1940
80% Hard seed 12%
Nov. 1940

180 Sorrel

90 Buckhorn per pound.

The full name and address of either the shipper or the consignee shall appear upon the label. This may be shown on either side of the label. If the name and address of the shipper are not shown upon the label, a code designation identifying the shipper shall be shown.

The code designation will be issued upon request to the Chief, Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

(g) The importation from a foreign country or transportation in interstate commerce of screenings as defined in the Act is prohibited if the screenings are to be used for seeding purposes, either directly or indirectly, by mixing with other seeds.

The term "screenings" includes chaff, sterile florets, immature seed, weed seed, inert matter, and any other materials removed in any way from any seeds in any kind of cleaning or processing and which contain less than 25 percent of live agricultural or vegetable seeds.

- (h) For further information write to the Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or to any field office of the Grain and Seed Division of that Service.